



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 10 2018

OFFICE OF THE  
ADMINISTRATOR

Margaret Weichert  
Acting Director  
U.S. Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20415

Dear Ms. Weichert:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is requesting an exception to the Qualifications Review Board case processing moratorium for Douglas Ballotti for the position of Region 5 Superfund Division Director.

This administration has put an emphasis on the Superfund Program and cleaning up these sites and returning these blighted properties to productive use. The work of the Superfund Taskforce has emphasized the importance of moving sites off the NPL and filling this position, at this time, is critically important to continuing to implement the administration's priorities. This is especially important in Region 5 with such high-profile sites as USS Lead in East Chicago.

Failure to fill this position during the moratorium will result in a gap in leadership of the division leading the cleanup of the largest number of Superfund sites in the nation. Under Douglas Ballotti's leadership, as Deputy Division Director of Region 5 Superfund, Region 5 has led the nation with 52 Superfund removal completions to address immediate threats to public health in Fiscal Year 2017. Douglas Ballotti exhibits exceptional leadership of the Region 5 Superfund program. He has an intimate and working understanding of the programs in Superfund including emergency management response and community involvement. His practical experience with leading a regional program set him apart from the other potential candidates. His familiarity with the Superfund program, familiarity with clean-up programs, and practical implementation of the program are essential to ensuring that Region 5 seamlessly is able to continue essential work.

This position leads the Superfund Division and reports directly to the Region 5 Regional Administrator. This position is not involved in policy matters. Given that this position does not develop national EPA policy, the likelihood the new agency head will have a personal interest in this appointment is low. Douglas Ballotti is currently on detail to the position since June 11, 2018 (e.g. 99 days). He is not currently on a Schedule C or noncareer SES appointment.

The position of the Administrator of the EPA recently became vacant. The President has asked me to take over the duties as Acting Administrator for the foreseeable future.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jeremy Taylor, director, Human Resources Management Division, at [taylor.jeremy@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.jeremy@epa.gov) or (919) 541-0537, or Dorothy Carr, lead Human Resources Specialist, at [carr.dorothy@epa.gov](mailto:carr.dorothy@epa.gov) or (919) 541-4356. We appreciate your attention to this request.

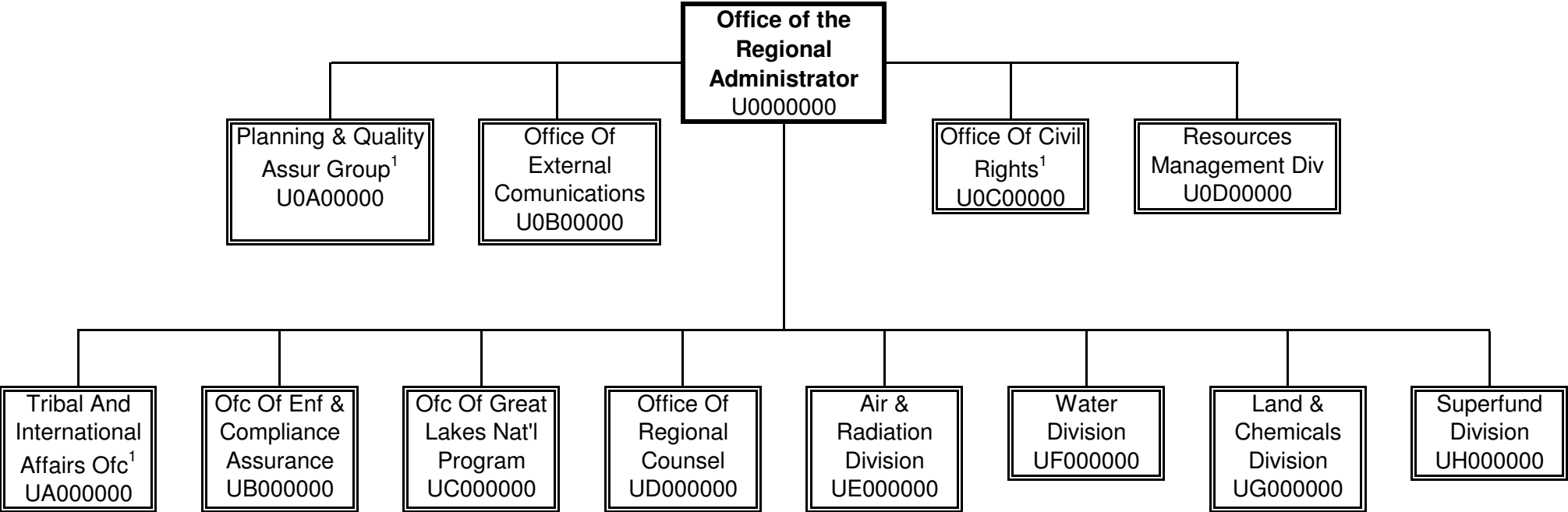
Sincerely,

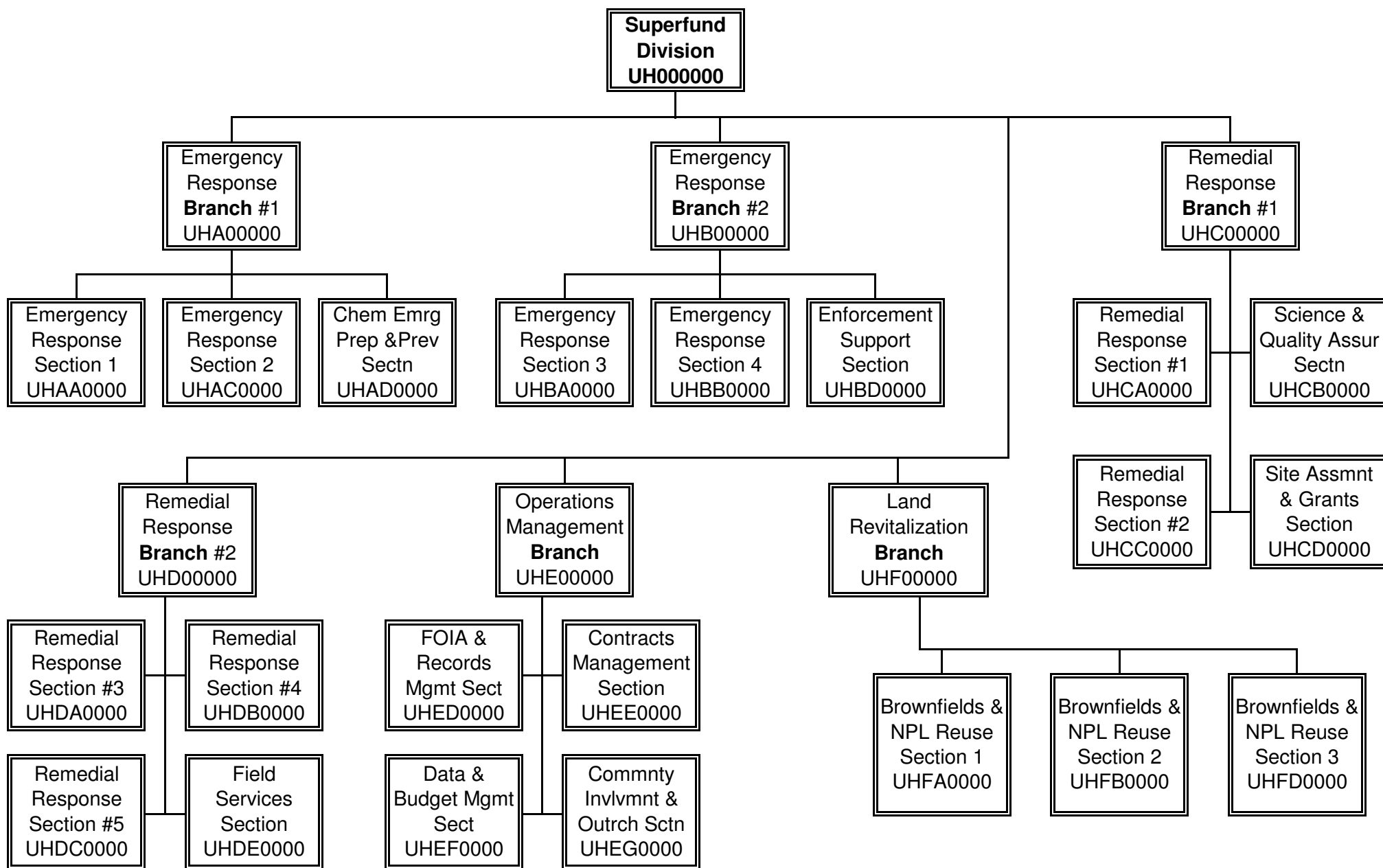
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Wheeler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew R. Wheeler  
Acting Administrator

Enclosures

**Current Organizational Structure - Region 5 (Chicago)**  
Showing Direct-Reports to the Regional Administrator





## DOUGLAS BALLOTTI

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### Experience

2018 February to Present      **Acting Director, Superfund Division**

U.S. EPA, Chicago, IL

Developed strategy to address residential soil contamination at the Federated Metals site in northwest Indiana. Utilized removal authority and resources to respond to immediate public health concerns, and coordinated with State partners to assess possible inclusion on NPL. Facilitated site visit and action memorandum signature by EPA Administrator in concert with Headquarters staff. Oversaw the development of the ESD and ROD amendment for the USS Lead site in East Chicago, Indiana. Coordinated and provided briefings on ROD amendment for EPA Administrator and Deputy Administrator.

2016 June to 2017 February      **Acting Director, Superfund Division**

U.S. EPA, Chicago, IL

Appointed Acting Director of Superfund Division upon the retirement of previous director. Upon appointment, lead the division's response at the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago, Indiana. Provided daily briefings to Headquarters' Senior Management on site issues and progress. Oversaw and directed various response activities at the site, which included initiation of four separate removal actions, the completion of the remedial designs for Operable Unit 1, and the initiation of the remedial action for the Zone 3 area. Worked closely with community leaders and local government officials to address ongoing community concerns. Activated the Region 5 Response Support Corp (RSC) to provide necessary personnel for all response related activities. In addition, ensured all division-wide targets and goals were met for the fiscal year.

2003 to Present      **Deputy Director, Superfund Division**

U.S. EPA, Chicago, IL

Senior manager in largest Superfund Division in nation comprised of over 250 employees. Responsible for managing division's financial budgets, human resources, and effective day to

day operation of division. Revised budget planning and execution processes through improving transparency and accountability of budgetary decisions and utilization. Oversaw major restructuring of division through a series of reorganizations to improve program efficiencies, function alignment, and span of control. Manage program accountability functions to ensure performance commitments are met or exceeded. Provide direction and guidance to senior managers over Remedial and Removal Response programs, the Enforcement program, and Brownfields program.

1995 to 2003

**Enforcement Coordinator, Superfund Division**

U.S. EPA, Chicago

Responsible for overall enforcement activities within division, which includes the Remedial and Removal Response programs, the Oil program, and the EPCRA program. Revised the financial management and cost recovery programs to ensure efficient billing, tracking and accounts receivable payments. Established internal system to track and plan utilization of Special Accounts. Established Oil enforcement structure and procedures to routinely pursue violations relating to oil spills and oil storage facilities. Revised enforcement data procedures resulting in significant improvement in overall data quality in CERCLIS/SEMS.

1989 to 1995

**Section Chief, Remedial Response Program, Superfund Division**

U.S. EPA, Chicago, IL

Supervised a staff of 10 remedial project managers (RPMs). Over 45 NPL sites in the Section in various stages of investigations and cleanups. Trained and mentored staff on new Superfund law (SARA) and revised National Contingency Plan (NCP). Utilized innovative approaches to accelerate cleanups at sites such as Sheboygan Harbor and River, and the Moss American site. Developed the highest performing Remedial Section in the nation. In 1992, awarded the national Superfund Supervisor of the Year. Managed the Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Model (SACM) initiative in the Region. Developed procedures and guidance to implement program. Managed the Regional Decision Team (RDT), resulting in accelerated cleanups in over 40 sites, such as the Circle Smelting site in Illinois.

1985 to 1989

**Remedial Project Manager, CERCLA Enforcement Program**

U.S. EPA, Chicago, IL

Responsible for site investigations, remedy selections and cleanups of Superfund sites on the NPL. Selected one of the first remedies documented in a Record of Decision (ROD) in the

program. Developed innovation approach to the groundwater remediation at the Northern Engraving Site in Wisconsin employing the use of alternate concentration limits. Negotiated over 10 settlements on NPL sites for site investigations and feasibility studies. During a 6 - month detail, developed and implemented the first enforcement process for the Emergency Response program in the Region.

1981 to 1985

**Project Geologist, Technical Assistance Team**

Roy F. Weston, Inc. and Ecology and Environment Inc.

Provided technical support to EPA's Emergency Response program. Conducted Removal site assessments on over 50 sites, and inspected over a 100 facilities for compliance with the spill prevention, control and countermeasures (SPCC) regulation. Conducted groundwater investigations and geophysical studies at such sites as Wausau groundwater contamination site and the Berlin and Ferro NPL site. Provided technical support to on-scene coordinators at over 20 time-critical removal actions.

**Education**

**Northern Illinois University 1981**

B.S. Geology

**References**

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